



ARMY AIR FORCES BASIC FLYING SCHOOL
GOODFELLOW FIELD, TEXAS

Sunday afternoon
Aug. 16, 1942

Hello again,

Here it is Sunday again - so - I'll start another letter. Open post was declared a little while ago, - but as it is raining cats and dogs and it's kinda cool out, I'm not going to bother with getting all wet again today. - I thought I'd catch up on my correspondence and do some studying. - After that maybe go to the post movie! - It's a relaxation just to be able to rest awhile and not feel like an assembly call is going to sound off at any moment. Apparently I'm not the only one of that opinion for at least half of the boys is here writing! It's our only chance tho. Last night we had open post until midnight but had to return to camp. - I went in to a show and had dinner, but soon tired of town. It's funny, but when you haven't any real interests in a town, they are all pretty much the same and there's not much to do unless you get drunk or something. All of which probably accounts for most of it. When you take

2

a group that's under the pressure we are all the time, you certainly can't blame 'em when they take that way to relax (How in the world did I get started on this tangent?)

We are on to our regular schedule now apparently. - This last week we had calisthenics and ground school in the A.M. with flying in the P.M. - This week it reverses, the same as at Chickasha. The main difference lies ~~in it~~ in the compactness of the schedule. - Here we have barely 5 minutes between calls, and when you have to change clothes for most of them - well, - it keeps you stepping, to say the least. - After supper each night we have a retreat ~~and~~ ^{parade} and then follows about $\frac{1}{2}$ hours more drill. - By that time its 8 o'clock or after and even if we have enough spunk left to prepare our ground school lessons. - we don't have the time cause "lights out" is at ~~ten~~ ^{ten} - and you can see what that leaves you after you take time out for a shower! - I don't quite get the idea of it all. - but someone has said Goodfellow Field was out to get "Randolph's" reputation for being a tough school - and I have no reason to doubt it! - The one redeeming feature they took up the rifles - so that's 10 pounds we don't have to lug around! - I don't know - I hope this is our toughest phase cause it sure gets under your skin. - Quite a few of the fellows have just upped & resigned! - Some wanted navigating and

3

~~and~~ others wanted nothing but the regular Army so as to get out from under all this "stuff". You can't blame them a bit. - We all talk of doing the same thing, but for most of us, - it's just talk - they're like I am - they'll gripe - yes, - but if they'll either make the grade or be eliminated for some reason or other - not quit. - But it's not hard to see the good points of being a private, going & coming practically as you please, in ^{company} to us, and no responsibilities. - But on the other hand, - we have something to be proud of, having gotten this far - and will have even more when we finish! (Don't mind me - I've got to write about something!)

Am flying? - Well, let's see. Those hotels we fly are becoming a little smaller each day. They are just about the size of a large boarding house, now! - We've had spins & all sorts of stalls, along with landing & taking off. Expect to solo tomorrow. - Been ready for several days but they issued an order ~~for~~ that no one would solo before Monday. - That eliminated the chances of anyone soloing before he really knew the fundamentals. It seems as though here to fore it's been a race between instructors to see who could solo students first, so they are stopping it. - In lots of respects it's not so different flying these planes - They are lots heavier ^(over 2 times) with no longer wings, so you can't throw

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'em around like those P.T.'s, but you have lots of power up front, so that compensates for it. The propeller is adjustable, i.e. - we can control the pitch of it from the cockpit and we just have to get accustomed to when & where it's necessary to use the different pitches. - We take off and land with flaps like those Douglas airliners - and - well - we're just flying a bigger ship. - It's a sort of transition period for us. - To give you an idea of what's in the cockpit for us to fool around with, - tomorrow I have to take a "blind fold" test showing where some 28 or 30 switches & controls are in the cockpit! - That's both to save us time in looking for them, and later on in night flying when we won't be able to see them.

Did I mention rain? - This part of the country is as near desert as I could imagine, and not be, but it started raining last night and been pouring all day. - "Most unusual" say the natives! - Guess it's some of your Washington weather that got lost. Anyhow, - it sure serves the purpose and makes it nice and cool for a change so that we can enjoy our afternoon off. -

How was your birthday, sister? - I'm sorry I didn't even have time to drop you a card or letter, but I just couldn't squeeze anything 'cept the telegram. In fact, - I was worried for fear I might not even get that off in time. - But as I said in it - "hold on"

Solly day - this thing is developing into a book!
Better stop soon. -

Hey, Pop, - how come you rate a week's vacation?
Must be pretty nice! - But I guess you'd need one after
battling your way to + from work on street-cars. I've
wondered more than once what the transportation
must be like with the crowded conditions and no
automobiles. - Maybe I'm lot^s better off way out here
in the wide open west. - I wonder how I'll ever
like living in a city again?

I'll stop now - and start studying and get that
over with. - I'll probably think of a million things to
say after I mail this - but this just can't go on.

Love
Frank

P.S. - Sister. - I think Ma is right - Don't try to send
a cake down to me. If it would hold together it would
be a mess from the heat. - It's too much money + labor
involved for the results. - Thanks, anyhow, I
appreciate the thought. -

Glad Mrs. Francis will let you stay on Montague
St. through the winter. - maybe she will until after
this war mess is straightened out. - What are you going
to do about fuel oil - or can you still get it?

Bye again

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P.P.S. - He had to take an eye exam the other day. - My
eye muscles are still OK and the vision is still 20:15
Guess I'll need 'em for night flying.

Ensigns -

930

John 1299 -

~~1299~~

200

Cremorne Street 15

30

House Hunt 4

Cowell -

300 -

Peter -